

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Method of preparing liquid nitrate esters, characterized in that an alcohol solution and a nitrating acid are mixed in a microreactor.

2. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the internal channel diameter of the microreactor is at least 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the internal channel diameter of the microreactor is at least 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the internal channel diameter of the microreactor is not more than 3000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the internal channel diameter of the microreactor is not more than 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the flow of the liquids in the microreactor is laminar.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the flow of the liquids in the microreactor has a Reynolds number of < 1000.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor contains microstructured passive mixing structures.

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1~~

to-8 Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor contains T- or Y-mixing structures.

10. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to-9~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor contains glass or silicon as material.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to-10~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor contains metal, ceramic or enamel as material.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to-11~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the method is performed under isothermal conditions.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to-12~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the microreactor employs the split-and-recombine principle or the multilamination principle.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to-13~~ Claim 1, characterized in that a monohydric or polyhydric alcohol is used as alcohol.

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to-14~~ Claim 1, characterized in that glycerol is used as alcohol.

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to-15~~ Claim 1, characterized in that a mixture of concentrated sulfuric acid and concentrated nitric acid in a weight ratio of 0.8:1 to 1.2:1 is used as nitrating acid, wherein the sulfuric acid may in turn contain up to 10 wt % oleum.

17. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 16~~ Claim 1, characterized in that glycerol is used as alcohol and the molar ratio of HNO<sub>3</sub> to glycerol is 3:1 to 10:1.

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 17~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of a mono-, di- or polynitrate ester.

19. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 17~~ Claim 1 for the preparation of trinitroglycerol or glycyl dinitrate ester.